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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 22 November 1988, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47 entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", which read in part as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "Recalling that the year 1990 will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,
>
> "Bearing in mind the related recommendation contained in the Final Document adopted by the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries, 1/ held at Nicosia from 7 to 10 September 1988,
>
> ...
>
> "1. Declares the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;
>
> "2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session a report that would enable the Assembly to consider and adopt an action plan aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism."

II. ACTION TAKEN BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

2. In accordance with the requests of the General Assembly in its resolution 43/47 and two subsequent decisions (44/429 and 45/410) the Secretary-General submitted three interim reports (A/44/800 of 27 November 1989, A/45/624 of 11 October 1990 and A/46/593 of 24 October 1991) relating to the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

3. These reports reproduced the views and suggestions of States Members and organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations, including the report of the Working Group of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on Decolonization, which was adopted by the tenth Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, at Accra, on 7 September 1991 (see A/46/593).

4. The views and suggestions referred to above are reflected in the annex to the present report and may enable the General Assembly to consider and adopt an action plan aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism.

Notes

1/ A/43/667-S/20212, annex, sect. I, para. 239.

ANNEX

Summary of views and suggestions submitted to the Secretary-General in connection with the plan of action requested in General Assembly resolution 43/47

INTRODUCTION

1. The ultimate goal of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism should be the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples through the exercise of the right to self-determination and independence by the populations of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with all relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and with the principles contained in the Declaration.

I. ACTION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

2. The international community, Member States, the United Nations system as a whole and other governmental and non-governmental organizations should unite their efforts to assist effectively the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in their progress towards self-determination and should actively participate in the implementation of the plan of action.

3. The international community and the United Nations system as a whole should continue to support the holding of consultations, as well as negotiations which are under way, among Member States concerned with a view to resolving certain colonial situations clearly identified in resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly.

4. The international community should seek to enable the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and decide their future political status with complete knowledge and awareness of the full range of political options available to them, including independence. In that context, particular emphasis should be placed on the improvement of educational systems in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the protection and enhancement of the human rights of the populations.

5. The international community should ensure that all political exercises relating to self-determination are carried out in an atmosphere free from intimidation and outside interference and allow for the open expression of the interests and aspirations of the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories irrespective of factors such as size, geographical location, size of population or availability of economic resources, with the United Nations playing an appropriate role.

II. AREAS IN WHICH THE UNITED NATIONS, IN COOPERATION WITH THE ADMINISTERING POWERS, SHOULD TAKE ACTION AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY

6. The United Nations, in cooperation with the administering Powers, should ensure that the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories are kept fully aware of the political status options available to them through increased direct contacts with the elected leaders and with the peoples themselves.

7. The United Nations, in cooperation with the administering Powers, should ensure that all acts of self-determination are preceded by adequate and unbiased campaigns of political education.

8. The appropriate United Nations organs, in consultation with the administering Powers, should undertake comprehensive reviews of the situation in each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to arrange for the holding of self-determination referendums as soon as possible, but not later than 31 December 1999, in accordance with principles contained in the Declaration and all relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly.

9. The Secretary-General, or his Special Representative, should visit each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories as early as possible during the Decade and report thereon to the General Assembly.

III. AREAS IN WHICH ACTION IS REQUESTED OF THE ADMINISTERING POWERS AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY

10. Administering Powers should take the necessary measures to promote the political, economic, social, cultural and educational advancement of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories thereby facilitating their exercise of the right to self-determination and should continue to provide the United Nations with information in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations.

11. Administering Powers should ensure that any exercises of the right of self-determination are not affected by changes in the demographic composition of the Territories under their administration as a result of immigration or the displacement of the peoples of the Territories.

12. Administering Powers should implement measures aimed at conserving the natural resources, preserving the environment and assisting the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in achieving the maximum possible level of economic self-reliance, environmental protection, and social and educational development.

13. Administering Powers should be requested to continue to cooperate, or resume cooperation, with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and actively involve themselves in its work.

14. Administering Powers should facilitate, in accordance with all relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and taking into account Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, the participation of Territories under their administration in the programmes and activities of the specialized agencies, international financial institutions and other organizations within the United Nations system, and United Nations bodies on decolonization, including in particular the Special Committee, as well as regional and international organizations.

15. Administering Powers should facilitate the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to each of the Territories at regular intervals.

IV. MEASURES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

16. Member States, in particular administering Powers, should take all necessary measures to protect the Non-Self-Governing Territories against environmental degradation and ecological damage; ensure timely assistance in the monitoring of both natural and man-made environmental threats; and provide the necessary relief assistance in cases of environmental emergencies.

17. Member States should be invited to consider adopting at the national level such measures, including legislation, that would (a) discourage all actions and activities, commercial or otherwise, which could be prejudicial to the exercise of the right to self-determination and independence by the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories; and (b) promote full respect for the human rights of peoples living under foreign domination and facilitate their recourse to judicial proceedings in order to gain economic and social restitution.

18. Member States, in particular administering Powers, should refrain from the use of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories for military bases and installations.

V. ROLE OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

19. Concrete mechanisms of international assistance should be worked out, especially in terms of economic growth and development, as well as protection of the environment in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In this area, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and international financial institutions should play a major role and therefore should be called upon to prepare adequate programmes.

20. The relevant United Nations bodies, particularly the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, should be entrusted with intensifying the dissemination of information on the situation in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, as well as on the Decade itself through

special publications on decolonization, public film projections, photo exhibits and seminars. Depending on the availability of resources, the Department of Public Information should be encouraged to establish the appropriate correspondent network in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

21. Non-governmental organizations and individuals with expertise in the field of decolonization should be requested to intensify their activities in cooperation with the relevant organs of the United Nations.

VI. ACTION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

22. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:

(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in each Territory;

(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

23. The Special Committee should continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories.

24. The Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies.

VII. COORDINATION, REVIEW, APPRAISAL AND REPORTING

25. The Special Committee and the Secretary-General should coordinate the programmes of activities relating to the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

26. The Special Committee should submit annually to the General Assembly an analytical report containing:

(a) A review and appraisal of the activities undertaken in connection with the Decade;

(b) Suggestions and recommendations.

27. The Secretary-General should submit to the General Assembly every three years during the Decade a report on action taken, as well as on suggestions and trends that emerge from the deliberations of United Nations organs and the specialized agencies on implementation of the plan of action.

28. The Secretary-General should submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a final report on the achievements of the Decade.